

Anthology One: Identity

- (b) Looking again at I am very bothered by Simon Armitage which deals with the theme of regret about a relationship, and at one other poem from the **RELATIONSHIPS** anthology which also deals with the theme of **regret about a relationship**.

With close reference to the ways each poet uses language, compare and contrast what the speakers in the poems say about **regret about a relationship**. You should include relevant contextual material.

Candidate Answer: Band 3 (Other Poem - To His Coy Mistress)

Response	Examiner's Comments
<p>Comparing both poems I am very bothered with To his coy mistress clearly visualises that they are both about <u>regret</u>. Firstly the poem I am very bothered was wrote by Simon Armitage and it contains <u>three stanzas</u> and was written about <u>an incident a school</u> were Armitage set fire to one of his classmates when he was young. Armitage is looking back and he <u>regrets</u> what he did to the girl but she still became his wife later in life. Armitage is an English poet and he is the Poet Laureate. Marvell who wrote a lot earlier in the 1600s tells us about a lady he knows and how he wants her to be his mistress, but she is not too keen because she is religious. Marvell was one of the metaphysicals and he wrote lots of classical poetry.</p>	<p>appropriate selection of second poem</p> <p>understanding of content</p> <p>engages the key terms</p> <p>chooses some contextual details</p> <p>clear personal engagement</p>
<p>The title of Armitage's poem is interesting as it tends to suggest that Armitage is not 'bothered' by what has happened, but he is as he says, 'it is one of the bad things I have done in my life'. This suggests he <u>regrets</u> what he has done Armitage also uses language that is full of <u>images</u> such as 'naked lilac flame' and this shows the dangers of his prank and what happened to the girl. The language he uses is also <u>realistic</u> and it makes you feel as if you are in the classroom with him as you could imagine the smell of the branded skin which shows that she has been marked as a result of this. The poem is fourteen lines so it is a <u>sonnet</u> but different to others I have read and it has three stanzas.</p>	<p>relates to the question</p> <p>some understanding of use of language</p> <p>addresses aspects of form</p>
<p><u>Similarly</u> His Coy mistress uses lots of images to show how much the speaker wants to be with her as he says, 'I would Love you ten years before the flood'. This is a conceit where there is lots of <u>exaggeration</u> showing how much he wants to be with her. I have spotted some <u>personification</u> here, 'time's winged chariot near' as the speaker and his mistress have to get on with it before they die and time runs out, there is also a <u>simile</u>: 'like amorous birds of prey' which suggests they are both loved up.</p>	<p>begins to make connections</p> <p>careful selection of material relates to the question</p> <p>some explanation of poet's intentions</p>
<p>There is some points which show that Armitage <u>blames himself</u> for what has happened to the girl with doing <u>verbs</u> such as: 'held/played/handed' and some <u>alliteration</u> of the harsh 'b' sound around the 'Bunsen burner' which shows how bad it has been. Armitage picks out another language technique that is being <u>direct address</u> demonstrated in the line 'Don't believe me please, if I say' to build a relationship with the reader as if he is almost asking for sympathy for what he has done and he is <u>full of regret</u>. This is like</p>	<p>identifies techniques</p> <p>focus on the question</p>

Examiner's Comments

Armitage having a conversation with us and asking us to forgive him.

Whereas in his coy mistress there is a symbol of wedding rings in 'the two burning rings' and these are suggesting there never ending love. The poet wants to seize the day and they should not hold back from expressing their feelings for one another or they could regret it forever. They should make the most of life because; 'there is nothing after life'; so waiting is pointless and could lead to regret. The poet also tries to persuade the woman with unpleasant images of death around 'worms' eating the mistress' body if she fails to follow him. Another image of death 'in my marble vault' and 'into ashes' shows that death will come to us all, so enjoy life while you can.

Furthermore, personally I believe both of these poems display regret but in different ways, Armitage is aware of what he has done and regrets it while Marvell is trying to persuade his mistress and says if she doesn't she will regret it. He does this through lots of images and complicated language whereas with Armitage it is like talking to him and I think he wants us to forgive him for what he has done. I like the Marvell one because there are lots of big ideas around the Indian Ganges, empires and winged chariots which are really effective and shows the extent he will go to get his mistress, the Armitage one however seems too familiar.

This response shows some understanding of language, structure and form. Some opportunities are taken to make relevant connections.

Band 3 (mid)

continues to make connections

considers message of the poem

some comment

understanding of language and poet's intentions

personal engagement

summative comment that shows enjoyment